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SIPDIS

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GENEVA FOR USAID KYLOH
ROME PASS FODAG
NSC FOR MELINE
CDR USPACOM FOR J3/J4/POLAD
USEU PASS USEC

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EAID](#) [AEMR](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CE](#)
SUBJECT: SRI LANKA - EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS:
USAID/DART SITREP #12

SUMMARY

1. From January 21 to 26, the USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) Water and Sanitation Officer (WSO) traveled to Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Ampara, Hambantota, Matara, and Galle districts to meet with implementing partners and visit internally displaced person (IDP) camps. The USAID/DART WSO observed that there is in some instances weak coordination between Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) officials and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and among NGOs working in a district or sector. The USAID/DART WSO stated that the lack of clarity regarding where IDPs will be allowed to rebuild their homes is reportedly delaying efforts to build transitional shelters. The USAID/DART WSO observed a lack of sanitation facilities throughout the assessment, and in many places the number of latrines did not meet International Sphere Standards (at least one toilet per 20 persons). End Summary.

Current Situation in Trincomalee

2. On January 21, the USAID/DART WSO traveled to Trincomalee in eastern Sri Lanka and met with a water and sanitation official and the Mutur office representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The water and sanitation official stated that coordination was lacking and hampering the relief activities in Trincomalee. IDPs affected by the earthquake and tsunamis are awaiting information from GOSL officials regarding where they will be relocated; however, a plan had not yet been made public.

3. The GOSL and the Sri Lankan Army are responsible for tankering water to camps where ICRC is working. ICRC, in conjunction with the Sri Lankan Red Cross (SLRC), is opening a mobile health clinic scheduled to begin service during the week of January 31.

4. The USAID/DART WSO also met with the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) who has worked with NGO World University Service Canada (WUSC) to clean approximately 25 wells. UNICEF has developed a system of prioritizing wells to be cleaned and a method of pumping the wells to minimize damage to the aquifer. WUSC will hold a technical meeting to share this information with NGOs during the week of January 31. There are currently only three water quality testing labs in the Trincomalee District, located at the

National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) in Kantale, Action Against Hunger (ACF) in Mutur, and Oxfam in Trincomalee.

15. UNICEF has ordered 36 chlorine test kits for the public health inspectors (PHI), and there are currently 42 PHIs working in Trincomalee District, but not all PHIs participate in field work. The PHIs will receive training when the chlorine kits arrive at the end of January. Fecal coliform testing is still needed, and the USAID/DART WSO suggested that UNICEF should work with ACF and Oxfam to conduct fecal coliform testing until well cleaning and disinfection had been completed. UNICEF has purchased 450 squat plates and 75-1,000 liter water storage tanks and has been involved with latrine design. The USAID/DART WSO reported that public latrines are full and additional pumper trucks are needed. Two additional units have been ordered and are scheduled to arrive in late February. [Note: The USAID/DART WSO will follow up on the provision of extra trucks for Trincomalee District with the Ministry of Urban Development and Water Supply (MUDWS) in Colombo. End Note.]

16. The USAID/DART WSO also met with an ACF water and sanitation engineer and discussed latrine use. The ACF engineer stated that greatest concern is hygiene, and latrines have been constructed but are not being used. ACF has health education and hygiene promotion programs which will be reinforced to encourage hygiene practices. [Note: USAID/OFDA has provided USD 403,763 to ACF for water and sanitation activities and emergency relief supplies in Trincomalee, Mullaittivu, and Jaffna districts. End Note.]

17. The USAID/DART WSO stated that at a water and sanitation meeting in Trincomalee, NGOs decided that one NGO should be responsible for each affected division's coordination, reporting, and monitoring. This lead NGO is not responsible for conducting all activities, but will ensure that safe drinking water and latrines are provided, waste disposal is adequate, and that PHIs and health promotion activities are coordinated. The NGOs were appointed to cover activities in the following areas: Mutur and Seruvila/ACF, Echilampathu/ICRC, Kinniya/Oxfam, Town & Gravets/UNICEF, Kuchchaveli North/Zoa Refugee Care, and Kuchchaveli South/Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

USAID/DART Visit to Trincomalee IDP Centers

18. On January 22, the USAID/DART WSO visited the Alaska Garden IDP camp housing 150 families near Trincomalee town. The Alaska Garden camp is located in a school and plastic sheeting had been provided for shelter, but the area had been flooded by recent rains, and much standing water was observed. In the camp, 12 latrines are available for use, and the urban council employs 2 people to clean the latrines daily. The USAID/DART WSO observed that although the facilities were clean, a child was observed using the adjacent field for defecation. [Note: USAID/DART WSO believes that residents of the camp may not be accustomed to using latrines. End Note.] Water is available in a U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) tanker, and no chlorine residual was detected. The USAID/DART WSO reported that the GOSL has not offered any housing options to the IDPs in the camp.

19. The USAID/DART WSO visited an IDP camp in West Mutur located in the Habeeb Nadar School. According to the USAID/DART WSO, 108 families or 702 people live at the camp. The GOSL provides food rations to the camp, and IDPs cook their own food. The USAID/DART WSO observed that an open dug well is used to provide water for washing. The Ministry of Health (MOH) provides drinking water in two 1,000 liter tanks that are filled twice a day (5.7 liters per person per day), and chlorine residual was detected.

10. The USAID/DART WSO reported that eight latrines are available at the camp in West Mutur, and this is below International Sphere Standards (1 toilet per 87 people and

International Sphere Standards are 1 toilet per 20 people). The USAID/DART WSO observed that the liquid level was approximately eight inches from the top of the latrine open pit.

11. The USAID/DART WSO reported that the IDPs in this camp have been told that they must leave the school by January 25. During the visit the Italian NGO Intersos was delivering kitchen sets, and the Intersos representative stated that they were working to provide transitional shelters for the IDPs, but they had not yet determined what type of shelter would be provided. Land had been provided by the mosque, and the location was said to be acceptable to the IDPs. Government land had been identified for temporary housing but was not acceptable as people wanted to be near the coast.

12. The camp representative indicated that medical services were adequate, and teams came in approximately every other day to provide health care.

CRS' Activities in Batticaloa

13. On January 23, the USAID/DART WSO traveled from Habarana to Batticaloa and met with the base manager for the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) shelter program. USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) implementing partner CRS is responsible for providing shelter in 2 of the 10 affected divisions of Batticaloa District (out of 14 divisions total). There are 16 transit camps in the 2 divisions of Araympathy (primarily Hindu) and Katankudy (primarily Muslim). The earthquake and tsunamis affected approximately 10,000 families, and an estimated 1,000 families are living in transitional housing in the camp areas in Batticaloa.

14. The USAID/DART WSO reported that no shelters have been constructed yet, and it is estimated that it will take approximately two days for teams of five to six people to erect one transitional shelter. Animators, or trainers, will assist with relocation and technical trainers will assist with construction. Construction is expected to employ cash-for-work laborers, particularly carpenters. CRS will provide a standard set of materials for transitional housing kits, including the timber frames. The NWSDB and UNICEF are responsible for activities in the areas of water, sanitation, and garbage disposal.

15. The USAID/DART WSO also visited an IDP camp at Puthukudiyiruppu School in Batticaloa. Approximately 165 families are currently living at the camp, down from an initial 700 families. There are three 1,000 liter tanks with drinking water and one dug well for washing. UNICEF coordinated water tankering with the NWSDB, and residual chlorine was detected. There are eight toilets available, and they are clean and in good condition; however, the USAID/DART WSO was told that people are defecating outdoors. The SLRC staff is conducting a health education/hygiene promotion program as many people have not previously used latrines.

16. The USAID/DART reported that residents at the camp in Puthukudiyiruppu School will be moved to the Ayuredic Hospital which is located within two km of the school. Land behind the hospital has been designated for temporary and transitional shelters, and 65 shelters were planned for this area. Latrines are planned for every four to five families, and water will be tankered.

17. The USAID/DART WSO also visited Selvangar East where there are approximately 128 families or 425 people and Araympathy East which houses approximately 76 families. These camps are located adjacent to one another, and shelter consists of a variety of tents and plastic sheeting. There are 24 latrines under construction at the camp, (one latrine per 40 people which is below International Sphere Standards), but none were available at the time of the USAID/DART WSO's visit. The USAID/DART

WSO stated that IDPs are using the nearby field for defecation. The USAID/DART WSO observed five to six watering points, and UNICEF is coordinating water tankering. The USAID/DART WSO noted that washing areas will be located near existing wells which had not been cleaned or disinfected but were covered.

GOAL's Activities in Hambantota District

118. On January 24, the USAID/DART WSO met with USAID/OFDA implementing partner GOAL in Ambalantota in Hambantota District. GOAL is working in four divisions in Hambantota District and will construct 1,000 shelters. The shelters are estimated to last for two to three years, and consist of a wood frame construction with corrugated metal roofing, USAID/OFDA plastic sheeting, and concrete footings to anchor the structure. GOAL estimated that four teams of four people will be available to construct shelters once land and families are identified. GOAL stated that it will take each team a half day to build one shelter. The USAID/DART WSO reported that families who receive these shelters are asked to assist with site clearing and the construction.

119. The USAID/DART WSO stated that GOAL also has active cash-for-work and quick impact projects in Hambantota District and is considering additional projects. These additional activities include a Kalamatiya fisheries cooperative to repair fishing boats, cleaning canals in areas that are prone to flooding, and working in a rice research center to employ rice farmers. The damage to the rice crop has left many rice farmers unemployed, and it was estimated that it will take approximately six months for the conditions in the rice paddies to return to a state that will support the growth of rice. GOAL has also distributed several sewing machines, and workers are being paid to sew mosquito nets which are distributed to those affected by the earthquake and tsunamis.

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120. The USAID/DART WSO visited the site of a GOAL cash-for-work program that had been implemented at Pulinathalaramaya and Gangaramaya Temples in Malpetawa. Under this cash-for-work program, workers were paid 350 rupees per day to remove sand and debris.

Christian Children's Fund Activities in Matara District

121. On January 25, the USAID/DART WSO met with USAID/OFDA implementing partner Christian Children's Fund (CCF) in Matara District. The USAID/DART WSO reported that due to the large number of organizations working in Matara District, coordination has been challenging. CCF is working in Wehella, Papitthegama South, and Weligama in Matara District. CCF has identified the following needs that it plans to meet through its programs: the cleaning and rehabilitation of schools and preschools, plumbing, latrine rehabilitation, garbage/solid waste removal, and the provision of safe drinking water from community taps to homes. CCF is also considering supplying water containers for families that do not have piped water.

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